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Vjesnik.

BUILDING INCUSTRY REVAMPS BRIGADE SYSTEM

According to former regulations, construction activities in Yugoslavia were carried out so that workers' brigades organized for particular construction activities worked by prescribed standards. The cost of specific types of construction work was fixed, but neither the time for completion of the work nor the total quantity of the work involved was fixed. By regulation the brigades worked 8 hours daily. Express authorization was necessary for all overtime work, and extra wages were paid for every hour of overtime

The former brigade system did not enlist the workers' fullest participation, for the brigade did not know the total quantity of work it should complete, and what its pay would be when the work was completed.

This system made construction more expensive, and did not provide a satisfactory incentive for faster work. It required extensive paper work at the building site to record the actual working time of every individual, verify wages for overtime work, etc.

Upon the suggestion of construction workers and workers' councils, the Construction Administration passed a resolution on changes to be made. In the future, work at building sites will be contracted for: brigades will undertake specific types of work on contracts based on the length of time necessary for the completion of a specific job. The contract will designate the quantity of work, individual pay, total earnings, and time limit set for completing the work.

Experience at the large building sites has already shown that the new system has increased workers' interest in their jobs.

The Administration of the Sisak Ironworks Building Site has worked out a system of contracting, but this system has not yet been applied satisfactorily on a mass basis. So far contracts have been completed only with some of the best brigades or carpenters, ironworkers, and masons. Contrary to the pledges of the Administration of the Sisak Ironworks Building Site, the new brigade system has not yet been sufficientlyly applied. Individual managers of the building site are neglecting this task.

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Workers themselves are expressing the desire that contracts be made with brigades. The new method of contracting improves work performance, for worker interest is much greater. Daily tasks are completed more successfully at those installations where employers have made a fair division of labor, and where they have applied the new brigade system.

Mass application of the brigade system is one of the fundamental responsibilities of workers' councils and union organizations. The new system will speed, and thus make less expensive, the construction of key installations in Croatia.

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